Opportunities for Employing Educated Unemployed Youth in Tourism Sector

† 4397. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target to increase the employment opportunities for the educated unemployed youth in the tourism sector in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Department of Tourism Government of India does not fix any targets to increase employment opportunities in the tourism sector. However, through the efforts of the Central/State and UT Governments and the Tourism Industry Employment Opportunities are generated directly and indirectly by creation of Tourist Infrastructure, Human Resource Development, Marketing and Publicity etc.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is estimated that tourism sector generated direct employment opportunities of 14.39 million during the year 1998-1999.

Master Plan for Hyderabad, Tirupathi, Visakhapatnam and Nagarjuna Sagar as Tourist Attractions

4398. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested for sharing the cost of preparation of Master Plan for Hyderabad, Tirupathi, Visakhapatnam and Nagarjuna Sagar to attract tourists; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be given in this regard?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Andhra Pradesh Government has engaged the services of M/s. EDAW, U.K. and its agency M/s. Tourism Features, New Delhi for preparing macro and micro plans of Tirupathi and Hyderabad. Similarly, the services of M/s. KPMG Ltd. was utilised for preparing project report on micro and macro plans on coastal tourism. They have also obtained the services of World Tourism Organisation for preparing perspective tourism plan for Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh *vide* his letter dated 17.11.1998 had requested the Ministry of Tourism to release 50 per cent of the consultancy expenses, *i.e.* Rs. 1,86,89,677.00.

(b) Since the budget available for the preparation of master plan is limited, the Department of Tourism, Government of India has not provided the assistance requested for. However, the Department of Tourism has decided to provide central financial assistance subject to the maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs to each State to draw up 20 years perspective plan as per guidelines issued in this regard.

Promotion of Tourism in Hilly Areas

† 4399. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several schemes are being implemented by Government for promoting tourism in hilly areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of places which have been selected for development as places of tourism in the country during the year 2001-2002 and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance to State Govts./UT Administrations under various schemes for promotion and development of tourism in the country which includes hilly areas well.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.